

An Account of the Conversation Behaviour and Execution of
WILLIAM ANDERTON PRINTER,

Who was Condemned at the Old Baily, on Thursday the 8th. of June, For High Treason, and Executed for the same, at Tybourn on Friday the 16th of June 1693.

Licensed according to Order.

Such has been Their Majesties Incomparable Clemency, since their Accession to the Throne, that among the many Lives Forfeited by the Law, on the account of Treasonable Books and Pamphlets, their boundless Mercy has taken but One: (as a great Lawyer has excellently observed) It was only Their Majesties Goodness toward many others, to call that a *Misdemeanor*, which the Law calls Treason. The Treasonable Libels that this Man suffer'd, more particularly for, being but two, of above two Score several sorts that have been disperst, since the Year 1691, in divers of which are contained as many and great Treasons as it was possible either for the Malice of the Devil or the Corrupt and Treasonable thought of Blood-thirsty Men to invent; Containing Treasons against the King in his own Royal Person; against his Government, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, full of Treason against the Queen, Scandals against all manner of Professions both in Church and Kingdom, of Magistracy and Ministry: It is therefore no more wonder to find those People Distemper'd, that are entertain'd with Poison, instead of wholesome Nourishment, than to see the Sea Rage when the Winds blow.

Thus much said, may seem to give the Disaffected and Murthering Party a greater Reputation than Convenient, were it not that their main Design, of shooting these Paper Pellets, (according to Old Princes Phrase), has lately suffered so fatal a Disappointment, that many of them are at this Instant under a Course of Justice; Others in Custody and Expecting it: And the Residue neither in Humour, nor condition to Prosecute the Quarrel; being so fully satisfied of the Vigilance, Power and Activity of their Majesties Friends, (which in Effect, are as many, as either, Love the Publique, or themselves) that they find it morally Impossible for them ever to bring any Villany to perfection upon so desperate a Bottom: Besides they have Undeceived the World, and made appear to their Sacred Majesties, that all Mercy is lost upon them.

Mr. Anderton, The Subject of this Narrative was by Birth, a North-Country Man, and tho' but of Indifferent Estant Parents, yet he was well Educated as to Grammar Learning. From the School he was put Apprentice to a Printer, serving his time with one Mr. Miles Fletcher, a Person of considerable Note of that Trade, after which for several Years: From a Printer, he became a Corrector of the Press, which Employ he chiefly followed, till the late Abdication and Revolution, after which he took to his Printing again, but in Holes and by Corners only.

Mr. Anderton has been known to have been an Old Offender against the Government, in Printing Seditious and Treasonable Libels, being generally thought to be concern'd in most of the most Treasonable Pamphlets that have been Disperst for some Years past, Notwithstanding he was Indicted and Convicted but of two of them; the manner of his Apprehending was as followeth.

Mr. Robert Stephens, Messenger of the Press; having formerly taken many Private Presses, wherein our Mr. Anderton was a Chief Manager, more particularly one at Hogston near More Fields, and another near So-bo. Yet Anderton had the good Fortune always to Escape with his Person. But on the 21. of May last, Spying two Journey-Men

Printers, whom he had missed from publick Printing Houses, for above six Months before; he followed them, and saw them go exactly into the House of one Skudamore (where Anderton was found) and where he had reason to think he worked privately: So having the Beadle and some other Persons to his assistance, he Apprehended Anderton there, but not without a great deal of trouble and abuse: Mr. Stephens and the others, made a particular Search, and in the Chamber where Anderton Lodged at the back of his Bed they found a private Door, which led them into a Room where Mr. Stephens found a Printing Press, Letters, &c. and searching farther, he found in an Old Trunk, a great Quantity of Libels, and Libellous Pamphlets; one Entitled, *A Caution to the Navy*; a 2d. *An Historical Romance on the Wars*; an other, *A Second Letter to the Bishop of Salisbury*; and there was an Errata, and an, &c. found set in the Press, the same that were in the Book called; *Remarks upon the Confederacy*. And in the Chamber where he lay, there was a Desk (which Mr. Stephens knew well to be the Prisoners, because he had seized it before, in which there was found the Two Libels, that he was afterwards tryed for, and divers others of the same sort, which Desk the Prisoner owned to be his; (these they seized and conveyed with the Prisoner to the Lord Chief Justice Holts Chamber: He was Examined by my Lord, and committed to Newgate for High Treason.

On Thursday the 1 June in the Afternoon, Mr. Anderton, was brought to the Bar, where an Indictment of High Treason was read against him; for that he did Compose, Print, and Publish Two Malicious and Treasonable Libels. The First Entitled, *Remarks upon the present Confederacy, and late Revolution in England*. The second Entitled, *A French Conquest neither desirable nor practicable*. In which two Libels there were contained the Rankest, Vilest, and most malicious Treasons that ever could be Imagined by any man to be put in Paper; in short the Design of them was merely to incite all the Kings Subjects to stir up and raise War and Rebellion against him, and to restore the late King James. After the Indictment was read, the Prisoner Pleaded not Guilty: And such was the tenderness of the Court towards him, not only in the large Allowances, of freedom, and favour while he was upon his Tryal, but upon his request, ordered him a Coppy of the Pannel, and gave him time till Saturday to prepare for his Tryal, that he might want nothing for his Defence. Accordingly on Saturday morning about nine a Clock he was again brought to the Bar, where upon a full hearing and Evidence he was found Guilty of High Treason, and the last day of the Sessions he Received his Sentence with the rest of the Malefactors. It was observed that his Countenance did not in the least change all the time of his being in Court, till just as the Sentence was Putting on him, at which moment of time, there was a visible appearance of his Countenance Changing very much.

And now Reader we come to the last Acts or Moments of William Anderton, who pursuant to the Sentence was this morning being Friday the 16 of June, conveyd on a Sledge from Newgate to Tyburn, the usual Place of Execution, Sir T. Cooke, Sir T. Lane, the Two Sheriffs, with Major Richardson, &c. Riding by the Sledge to see the Execution done.

At Tyburn he was attended on by Mr. B. and another Reverend Divine, who assisted him with their Spiritual Comfort, and Advice at this last Moment of his life, he continued at the Place of Execution above an Hour, and having delivered, what he had to say, to the Sheriffs, &c. the Divines often Praying with him, and he making several Exclamations to himself very fervently, The Executioner did his Office.

Printed by John Wallis near the Green Dragon in Fleet-street, 1693.